



**Basin Plan Amendment to Update  
Groundwater and Surface Water Protection  
CEQA Scoping Meeting**

*North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board*

July 8, 2010

# Meeting Outline

- Planning Process
- Purpose of CEQA Scoping
- Need for the Proposed Amendment
- Public Comments Regarding Scoping, Planning Process, and the Proposed Amendment

# Basin Planning Process

- CEQA Scoping
  - Proposed Policy and Staff Report
  - Public Review and Comment
  - Public Hearing and Regional Water Board Adoption
  - State Board, OAL, and U.S. EPA Approval
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# North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Lead state agency responsible for protecting water quality in North Coast Region

- Authorities:
- The Federal Clean Water Act
- California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act
- The Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan)

# Purpose of Scoping

- Required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Determine extent, focus, and content of environmental analysis
- Identify issues to eliminate from environmental analysis
- Identify alternatives
- Identify methods of assessment
- Receive comments

# CEQA Analysis

## Environmental Factors

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions

# Need for Amendment

- Remove and/or update outdated objectives, policies, tables, etc.
- Add Action Plans
  - Address SWRCB requirement for groundwater salt / nutrient management plans
  - More efficient / effective regulation for protection of waters
  - Clarify any ambiguities
  - Promote consistency between regions
  - Provide for implementation of current standards

# Proposed Amendment

- Update four existing water quality general objectives for groundwaters in Section 3 of the Basin Plan.
- Update the four existing narrative surface water objectives in Section 3 of the Basin Plan.
- Add a new narrative toxicity objective for groundwaters to Section 3 of the Basin Plan, *Water Quality Objectives for Groundwaters*;
- Remove the existing Table 3-2 and add a new *Policy for the Application of Narrative Water Quality Objectives*, to Section 4 of the Basin Plan that describes the process the Regional Water Board uses in establishing numeric values to implement narrative surface and groundwater water quality objectives.
- Delete the outdated Action Plan for Accidental Spills and Contingencies from Section 4 of the Basin Plan.
- Edit footnote #4 to Table 3-1 to reference the Policy for Application of Water Quality Objectives.
- Add a new “Action Plan to Control Wastewater and Process Waste/Wastewater from Land Disposal Activities,” to Section 4 of the Basin Plan.

# Salt & Nutrient Management Plans

- Required for all groundwater basins
  - All pollutant sources (ag, wastewater, industry, etc.)
  - Prepared by basin stakeholders
  - Extensive monitoring/modeling and pollutant load allocations
  - Amendment may replace need
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# Next Steps

- Draft Documents including: Staff Report, CEQA Analysis, Amendment language
- Peer and Economic Review
- Release of Draft Documents
- Public Workshop
- Public Review / Comment Period
- Public Adoption Hearing

# CEQA Scoping Summary

- Determine extent, focus, and content of environmental analysis
  - Identify issues to eliminate from environmental analysis
  - Identify alternatives
  - Identify methods of assessment
  - Receive public comments
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# Information

- See Amendment website for regular updates:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/groundwater\\_surfacewater\\_amendment.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/groundwater_surfacewater_amendment.shtml)
- Email list: PLEASE sign up for the  
'Surface Groundwater Protection' list at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/reg1\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg1_subscribe.shtml)
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